

THE 1916 RISING

THE IRISH TIMES

in association with the Department of Education and Science

PREFACE

Easter came late in 1916. Although Nationalist sentiment in Ireland had been making its presence felt and there had been a show of strength by armed men marching on the streets of Dublin on St Patrick's Day, there was little sense of what was to happen. The weather was fine. With the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday and the Spring Show about to begin at Ballsbridge, most citizens were preparing to enjoy a spring break. The events which were about to unfold told a different story.

Easter Sunday April 23rd

Manoeuvres by the Irish Volunteers and the Citizen Army, planned as a cover for the beginning of the Rising, are cancelled by the Volunteers' chief of staff, Eoin MacNeill. Large numbers of rebels gather in Dublin and around the country, but there is deep confusion about what is to happen. The rebel leaders decide to postpone the Rising until noon on Monday. Explosives are stolen by the rebels and stored in Liberty Hall (1). The authorities discuss a plan to raid Liberty Hall and arrest and deport the rebel leaders but decide to put off action until Monday at the earliest.



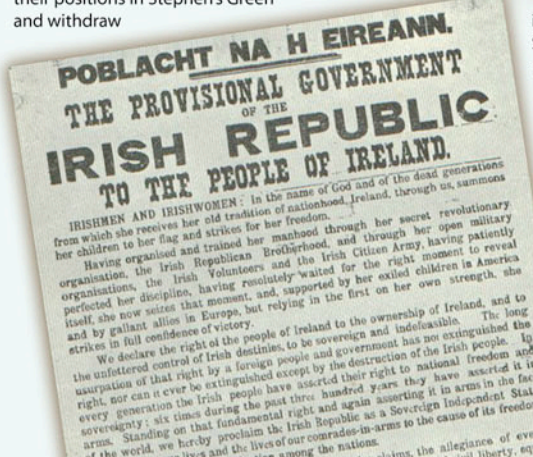
Easter Monday April 24th

The rebels turn out in reduced numbers in Dublin and begin their operations at noon, seizing the General Post Office (2), Boland's Mill (3), The South Dublin Union (now St James's Hospital) (4), Jacob's factory in Bishop Street (5) and other buildings. The rebels fail to capture the largely undefended centre of the administration at Dublin Castle but occupy the adjacent City Hall (6) instead. Patrick Pearse reads the Proclamation of the Irish Republic outside the GPO. Transport and distribution services break down throughout the city. Large-scale looting begins in the Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) area. During the night, government troops quietly take over the Shelbourne Hotel (7), occupying a commanding position overlooking the Citizen Army positions in Stephen's Green.



Tuesday April 25th

Government forces arrive in the city by train overnight from Belfast and the Curragh. Machine gun fire from the roof of the Shelbourne Hotel forces the rebels to leave their positions in Stephen's Green and withdraw



into the College of Surgeons (8). Government troops retake City Hall and the nearby offices of the Daily Express. The deranged Captain Bowen-Colthurst arrests three innocent civilians, including the pacifist Francis Sheehy Skeffington, and has them shot the next morning.

Wednesday April 26

At 8am, the shelling of an empty Liberty Hall begins. Rebels holding out in the Mendicity Institute (9), near the Four Courts (10), surrender after ammunition finally runs out. British troops continue landing at Kingstown (now Dun Laoghaire). The public welcomes soldiers by giving them food as they march towards the city. At Mount Street Bridge (11) rebels engage these troops. In a battle that lasts until evening, there are heavy British casualties. Fires begin to spread on O'Connell Street. General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell is despatched from London to deal with the Rising.



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Thursday April 27

In the GPO James Connolly is wounded. At the Four Courts and North King Street (12) rebels are attacked, with fierce house-to-house

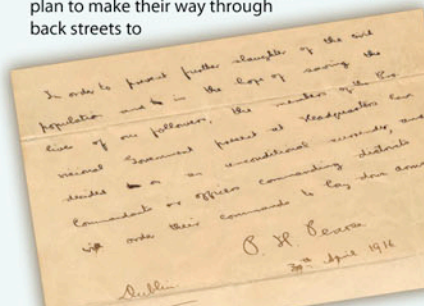
Friday April 28

General Maxwell arrives in the early hours, and issues a proclamation. A significant rebel assault on Ashbourne, Co Meath, takes more

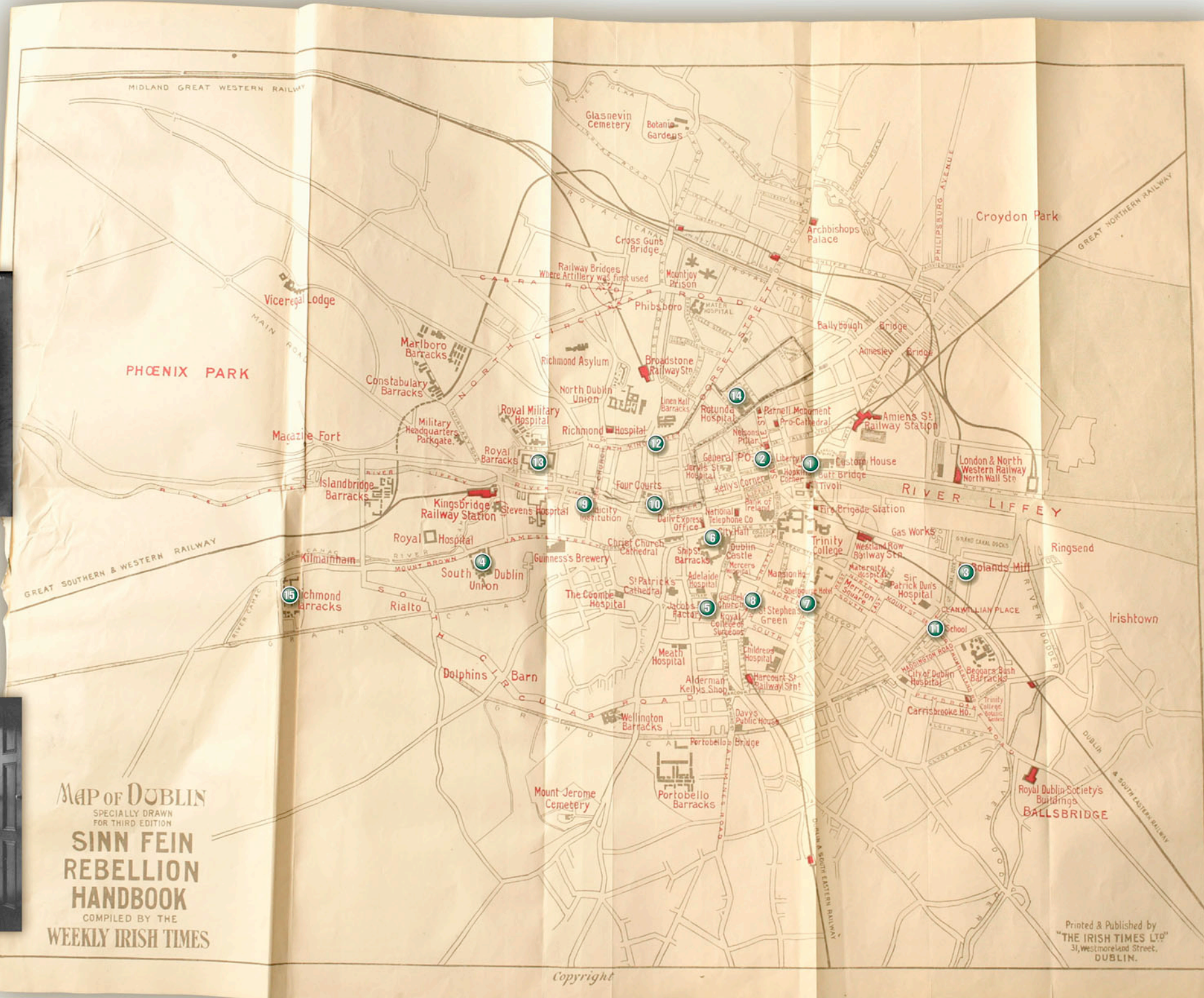


Eamon de Valera under arrest

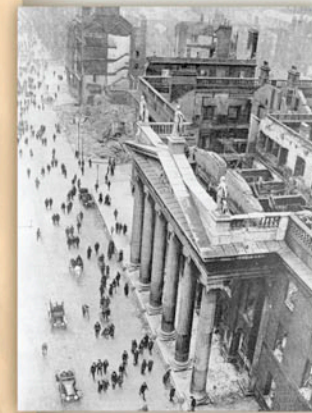
than 90 prisoners and captures four police barracks. At 8pm, a decision is made to evacuate a burning GPO. Pearse, Connolly, Plunkett, Clarke and MacDermott halt in a house on Moore St, where they plan to make their way through back streets to



Surrender note



This map was published in a special IRISH TIMES 'Handbook' after the Rising.



the Four Courts for a last stand. British troops in North King Street kill over a dozen innocent civilians.

Saturday April 29

At noon, Pearse decides on a ceasefire. At 12.45pm, Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell, walks with a white flag towards the British. Rebels are offered only unconditional surrender. At 3.30pm Pearse surrenders, and after the garrison says the rosary, they leave 16 Moore Street. At 3.45pm Pearse is taken before General Maxwell at the HQ of the Irish

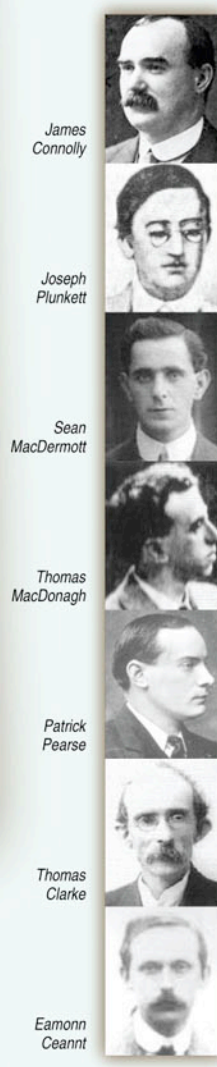
Command at Parkgate Street (13) and signs a general order of surrender. Connolly countersigns surrender order, but only for men under his command in Moore Street and St Stephen's Green. Ned Daly is allowed to lead the march of his men from the Four Courts to the surrender point at the Gresham Hotel. The surrendered rebels are corralled on open ground behind Rotunda (14), where they remain for the night.

POSTSCRIPT

On Sunday, rebels at Boland's Mill, Jacob's Factory, St Stephen's Green, South Dublin Union and Marrowbone Lane surrender. They are abused by angry Dubliners. The prisoners are marched to Richmond Barracks (15), where leaders are identified.

In the days and weeks that follow the surviving rebels are imprisoned and court-martialled. Executions begin. The seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, Patrick Pearse, Sean MacDermott, Thomas Clarke, Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Thomas MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett, are shot. Eight others are executed for taking part in the Rising, including Pearse's brother Willie. Many are deported to prisons in England and Wales, including Eamon de Valera, commander of the Boland's Mill garrison.

Normal life begins to resume, but the normality has changed. Public opinion, initially hostile to the rebels, begins to swing behind them as the leaders go to their deaths. In military terms the 2,000 men and women who had challenged the might of empire had failed. But as the poet WB Yeats observed, the result was that all was changed, "changed utterly".



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